

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of Sept. 11, 2023
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Diane Morin	David Simpson	Mary Riordan	Sally Woodman
John Meserve	Bill Landry	Roger Hamel	Marilyn Landry	Kale Amato
Kathy Meserve				

Dave Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Secretary's Report – David Simpson

Marilyn Landry made a motion to accept the minutes from December 12, 2022 meeting. Diane Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The Money Market income was from interest and a donation of unexpended funds from the 1999 Newton Bicentennial group. Expenses were the Primary Schoolhouse Unitil electric expense of \$18.38, and the cost to convert a 16mm film from the 1949 bicentennial celebration parade committee to a USB drive for showing at the 2023 Fall Festival. John Meserve moved to accept the treasurer's report as written. Seconded by Mary Riordan, with a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

- Update on replacement of the three seats on the two Hayford carriages. Reviewed two quotes from Kathy Cappucci of KC Custom Sewing Co to repair the single seat on the Concord carriage and the two seats on the Democrat carriage. The cost to replace the “stuffing” and the seats using genuine Milano Raven leather was \$2,900.00. The cost using Charolotte Fabrics faux leather was \$2,000.00. The costs also include replacement of the drop front panels on the carriages.

Ms. Cappucci stated that the faux leather would look the same as the real leather and would also last for many years. Based on her knowledge of the materials, the appearance and longevity of the materials, she recommended using the faux leather.

After some discussion, the decision to use the faux material was unanimous.

- Discussions were held with regard to methods to protect the carriages from mice and other animals that have been a problem in the past. Dave Simpson has some experience with these type issues and will take steps to put products in place to protect the carriages. He has already taken steps to institute that type of protection in the Marshall House where he has seen signs of mice infestation.
- The 16mm film of the 1949, 200-year celebration of Newton's founding, that was donated by Patricia Estabrook, was converted to a USB drive and will be shown at the Society's October Fall Festival.

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- 2023 Fall Festival update by John Meserve. Sponsorship letters were sent out to potential sponsors a couple of weeks ago. As of this meeting seven sponsors have replied in the affirmative.

Discussions were held with regard to all facets of the festival preparations. Marilyn Landry volunteered to be the “Food Czar” and over see the determination of the types and quantity of the food that will be offered. She, Sally Woodman, and Kathy Meserve will oversee the wine selection. Kathy will also oversee the purchase of the utensils, plates, napkins etc. for the food and order the wine glasses, once a decision has been made regarding the wines to be served. Several people offered tables for the event for use for the food, displays, lap tops etc. Bill Landry will make up tickets for the event and create posters and advertising for the event and pick up the wine glasses.

Whereas the theme for this year’s festival is to “restore the Hayford carriages close to their original condition”, it was felt that we should have several displays at the festival that relate to the carriages.

New Business:

- Bill Landry received a call from Selectman Joe Simone regarding the fact that next year, 2024, will be the 275th anniversary of the founding of the town of Newton. Mr. Simone brought this up at the Sept. 5th meeting of the B.O.S. He suggested doing something in the town to celebrate this event. He mentioned that he looked into the 1999, 250th celebration that was held and found that the 20 person committee started working on that event **two years prior**.

B.O.S. member Matt Burrill suggested that something be sent out to the public looking for volunteers to participate in a committee to make this event happen. He stated that he seriously doubted we would get a good response. A discussion among the society members at our meeting pretty much agreed with Mr. Burrill’s assessment. It would be especially difficult because the committee would have only several months to pull it all together.

Some research into the previous three “founding celebrations” showed the following:

- 1949 – A small booklet was printed. A parade, which included surrounding towns, was held.
- 1974 – A small booklet was printed. No parade was held.
- 1999 – A larger booklet was printed. A parade and local celebration were held.

The society members at the meeting tended to agree with Mr. Burrill’s assessment. It was decided to wait and see what the response was to the notification that was sent out by the B.O.S.

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Other:

- Once approval is obtained from the B.O.S., Dave Simpson will provide the materials and labor to repair the exterior walls and replace the two deteriorated windows in the Cobbler Shed at the Marshall House.
- Dave Simpson received several former Newton Grange items from the Danville Heritage Commission. He will turn the items over to the society Curators for disposition.

Curator / Committee Reports:

Curators: No report (Ron & Cheryl Saunders)

Historian: (Roger Hamel)

In April, I responded to a request from **James McCarthy**. He was inquiring if **Marcoux Grove** was named after Joseph L Marcoux who is his 3rd great uncle. From data at the Registry of Deeds I was able to determine that Marcoux Grove was named after a Joseph L Marcoux who owned and subdivided the land in the early 20th century. Using some census data, I was able to determine that the Joseph L Marcoux we owned Marcoux Grove was not the same Joseph L Marcoux who was Mr McCarthy's 3rd great-uncle.

In May, I responded to a request from **Scott Condon** who requested historical information on his home at **8 Bartlett St**. I was able to give him the deed history going back to a sale by Charles H Whittier in 1898. In our 250th Anniversary Booklet there is a list of Newton's Old Houses that list Asa Whittier as the early owner of 8 Bartlett. Asa Whittier (1812-1868) is the father of Charles H Whittier (1846-1919). I was also able to also provide Scott with some biographical information on both Asa and Charles H. Whittier.

In late May, I responded to a request from **Jess Blaine** who requested historical information on his home at **77 Heath St**. I was able to give him the deed history going back to when the lot was subdivided in 1967. According to the Property Card at the Newton Assessing Department the house was built in 1970.

In June, I responded to a request from **Carol Hutchins** who was seeking information on her grandfather, **Dana O Huntress** and his wife **Bertha Huntress** who are buried in Newton. I provided pictures of the grave markers of Dana (1895-1990) and Bertha (1902-1991) that I found on the Find a Grave website. I also provided US Census data for them from 1900 to 1940.

In August, I responded to a request from **Virginia Cornell** who requested any books, etc. that she could purchase with information on her ancestor, **Eliphalet Bartlett** (1741-1829), who is buried in Newton. Bill Landry provided information on the Bartletts burier in the Town Hall Cemetery. Karen O'Malley told me that there are some photos of members of the Bartlett family at the museum, but nothing that goes back to the time of Eliphalet.

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Archivist: No report (Karen O'Malley)

PROGRAMS: (Diane Morin / Sally Woodman)

- The program "It reminds me of a story" is set for Wed. Sept. 20th at the Newton Town Hall

WEB SITE:

Mary Riordan stated there were numerous visits to the web site since the last meeting in April.

May – 375, June – 350, July – 489, Aug. – 400.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center. The annual Christmas party will be held at this meeting

Dave Simpson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Landry,